

MISSOURI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA ITEM:**April 2010****RECOGNITION OF STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS****STATUTORY AUTHORITY:**☐Consent
Item☐Action
Item☒Report
Item**Employees of the Month**

Yvonne Ali, Vision Supervisor, Missouri School for the Blind (MSB), was selected as the Department's January Employee of the Month (EOM). Ms. Ali was nominated by co-workers, Jennie Mascheck, Coordinator, and Mary Dingus, Librarian based on her outstanding efforts to assist students who are legally blind. As the supervisor of Missouri's Instructional Resource Center at MSB, Yvonne is responsible for registering students who are legally blind in Missouri. She then purchases textbooks and materials from the American Printing House for the Blind (APHB) that the students use in their local school programs. The total number of Missouri students registered for the 2007 Federal Quota Registration is 1193, which is the largest number of legally blind students in our state since data collection began in 1964. The largest increase occurred in the registration of children in the infant programs, preschoolers and kindergartners. "These increases are due in large part to changes in tracking procedures and outreach efforts initiated by Ms. Ali. Local school districts commend her efforts on behalf of their students. Procedural changes implemented by Ms. Ali have expedited students' timely access to their textbooks and educational materials," Jennie and Mary in the written nomination form. During the 2008-09 school year, Ms. Ali spearheaded MSB's application and receipt of an AIM grant to obtain Dolphin Conversion software to increase materials access for MSB enrolled students. She has coordinated with APHB to host a National Instructional Partnership on the topic of sensory learning in November 2008 with another event on the topics of functional vision/learning media and functional hearing assessment scheduled for October 2009. In June 2009, Ms. Ali was one of three Ex Officio Trustees in the country invited by the APHB to develop training of new Trustees. Yvonne is a valuable state resource regarding the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard and Clearinghouse. She is a frequent and popular presenter and exhibitor at a variety of conferences statewide.

The Department's February EOM was Cindy Flynn, Human Resource Analyst with the Missouri School for the Blind (MSB). "Cindy is the keeper of all of our employees' personal records," said Nancy Arnold, Teacher and Joyce Waddell, Assistant Superintendent, in the written nomination form. "She knows when we marry, divorce, or have children. She is the go-to person for information and answers, yet no one seems concerned about our vital pieces of information falling into her hands. She handles every situation discreetly, she is approachable and knowledgeable. What impresses us most about Cindy is that she does everything with kindness and respect. She is the calm in the midst of a storm." When school staff went through difficult changes several years ago, as salaries changed due to some errors, Cindy coordinated meetings with Jefferson City personnel so we could have everything explained to us. "She made herself available to anyone who needed help. We needed her patience and kindness and we got it," said Ms. Arnold and Ms. Waddell. Cindy volunteers to help with activities that are not in her job description. Recently, she began to attend meetings of the Professional Development Committee, volunteering to help put together booklets/packets of information for new (and existing) staff. This was not an assignment or a requirement. "Cindy humbly offers her time and expertise whenever and wherever it is needed," they added. "To be respectful and kind to people should be part of anyone's job. In the position of Human Resources, or personnel, it should be a requirement. There are too many delicate situations that are part of the job. Those situations can be handled in a way that worries us or in a way that allows us to trust; Cindy is a shining example of the latter. We are very fortunate."

March Employee of the Month was Allen Leroux, Residential Advisor with the Missouri School for the Deaf (MSD). Mr. Leroux was nominated for the EOM award by Rachel Mackey, secretary in the Student Life Department for his willingness to help. "Allen is a wonderful asset to the Student Life Department," she said in the written nomination form. "He is always ready to help out, whether it means coming to work early or filling in on a bus route at a moment's notice. He has kind words for everyone he comes in contact with. Too bad there aren't more 'Allen's' in the world! He is always willing to go the extra mile, even when others aren't. I can call and ask him to come in early to drive the school's Mexico route with 30 minutes notice and he is always available to assist – even if he is not scheduled to work that day. Allen is also a recent recipient of the Missouri School for the Deaf "Soaring Eagle" award. "Allen is very deserving of the Soaring Eagle award because he is a fantastic employee and an excellent role model to his peers and the students at MSD," Rachel said.

5 Years - 18

Ingrid Caldwell, School Improvement*
 Connie Daud, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Joyce Furlow, Missouri School for the Deaf
 Melissa Gallop, Vocational Rehabilitation
 Lori Martin, Missouri School for the Deaf
 Joyce Moon, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Sarah Neumann, Missouri School for the Deaf
 Sherryl Nicks, Missouri School for the Deaf
 Audra Noel, Disability Determinations
 Victoria Purvis, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Debra Seiberlich, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Robert Self, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Dawn Sheaffer, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Kathy Siebert, Career Education*
 Monica Silvey, Administrative & Financial Services*
 Robert Smith, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 David Tenney, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Patricia Tophinke, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled

10 Years – 12

Eric Bader, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Debbie Burnaman, Missouri School for the Deaf
 Arki Collins, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Elizabeth Dwyer, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Kyle Heislen, School Improvement*
 Bryan Howard, Administrative & Financial Services*
 Bridget James, Disability Determinations
 Diana Jones, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Tammy Jones, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Kelly Kempker, School Improvement*
 Beverly Shively, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Laura Stallmann, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled

15 Years – 21

Julie Arnold, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Vickie Barred, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Stepheny Bath, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Lucille Blackwell, Missouri School for the Deaf
 Bruce Bryant, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Robin Cachero, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Janet Childers, Vocational Rehabilitation
 Helen Dodson, Vocational Rehabilitation
 Cheryl Doza, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Starla Duncan, Career Education*
 Susan Fitzpatrick, Missouri School for the Blind
 Janet Flader, Disability Determinations
 Ada Hensell, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Debra Holloway, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Louis Izard, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Larry Lockett, Missouri School for the Deaf
 Belinda Morrow, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Doug Roach, School Improvement*
 Teresa Townsend, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 John Weber, School Improvement*
 Sheila Woolard, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled

20 Years - 7

Kathleen Batts, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Laura Harrison, Teacher Quality and Urban Education*
 Veronica Hoxworth, Vocational Rehabilitation
 Gloria Newman, Missouri School for the Blind
 Bill Poteet, Career Education*
 Laura Rice, Missouri School for the Deaf
 Pamela Robertson, Disability Determinations

25 Years – 6

Janet Arnold, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Claire Beck, Vocational Rehabilitation
 Elmer Cruz, Missouri School for the Blind
 Rosalie Donaldson, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Tonya Fambro, Vocational Rehabilitation
 Peggy Robinson, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled

30 Years – 4

Elizabeth Farris, Disability Determinations*
 Kathy Julius, Vocational Rehabilitation
 Kevin Spencer, Missouri School for the Deaf
 Carla Young, Disability Determinations

35 Years – 1

Hermetta Beck, Vocational Rehabilitation*

* = Jefferson City Based Staff

DIVISION	TOTAL NUMBER OF AWARDS
Commissioner	0
Administrative & Financial Services	2
Deputy Commissioner	0
Career Education	3
Commission for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing	0
Missouri School for the Blind	2
Missouri School for the Deaf	9
Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled	33
School Improvement	5
Special Education	0
Teacher Quality & Urban Education	1
Vocational Rehabilitation	14
TOTAL	69